

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05047 221159Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05
PA-01 ICA-11 /139 W
-----077096 221314Z /47

R 220758Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7305
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 5047

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE RESURFACES IN PRESS

1. PAKISTAN'S PRESS HAS GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE TO THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE IN THE WEEK SINCE GENERAL ZIA UL-HAQ, THE CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE WASHINGTON POST, REITERATED HIS DETERMINATION TO SECURE A REPROCESSING PLANT. ACCOUNTS OF THE INTERVIEW, UNIVERSALLY LAUDATORY IN TONE AND ALMOST UNIFORM IN LANGUAGE, REGURGITATE THE BY-NOW STANDARD RATIONALES FOR PAKISTAN'S ACQUIRING REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY.

2. PAKISTAN IS A FOSSIL FUEL POOR COUNTRY, SO THE ARGUMENT GOES, WHOSE HOPES FOR FUTURE PROGRESS REST ON ITS ABILITY TO DEVELOP
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 05047 221159Z

NUCLEAR ENERGY. THE ISSUE OF PROLIFERATION IS A FALSE ONE BECAUSE REPROCESSING PLANTS ARE ALREADY SPREADING AROUND THE WORLD WITH TWO, AND SOON TO BE A THIRD, IN INDIA ALONE. IF THE PROLIFERATION FEAR IS BASED ON DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS THEN THE ISSUE IS MOOT, BECAUSE PAKISTAN HAS NO DESIRE TO SQUANDER ITS MEAGER RESOURCES ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND HAS ALREADY AGREED TO UNPARALLELED SAFEGUARDS

ON THE PROPOSED PLANT. "CO-PROCESSING" IS AN UNACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE BECAUSE IT IS AN AS YET UNPROVEN TECHNOLOGY WITH WHICH PAKISTAN CAN ILL-AFFORD TO EXPERIMENT.

3. DESPITE ESCHEWING THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE PLANT TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE GOP HAS PLAYED UP THE THREAT POSED BY INDIAN AND ISRAELI NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES. OFFICIALS POINT OUT THAT INDIA HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO DISCUSS PAKISTAN'S PROPOSED SOUTH ASIAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE. IMPLICIT IN THE ARTICLES IS THE OLD CANARD THAT OPPOSITION TO PAKISTAN'S ACQUIRING THE TECHNOLOGY IS THE RESULT OF A HINDU-JEWISH CONSPIRACY; THE USG'S "IMMORAL OPPOSITION" TO THE PLANT IS ALSO LAID AT THE DOOR-STEP OF TRADITIONAL ANTI-ISLAMIC PREJUDICES. SEVERAL PAPERS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE GOP SHOULD RAISE THE ISSUE AT THE FIRST ASIAN ISLAMIC SUMMIT SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN KARACHI IN JULY IN THE HOPE OF COUNTER-BALANCING PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES.
HUMMEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CONSTRUCTION, NPT, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA05047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780215-0396
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780534/aaaabclv.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2fc18a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2618912
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE RESURFACES IN PRESS
TAGS: PINT, TECH, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2fc18a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014